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NOTE TO ASA MEMBERS: The ballot for the 1975 election accompanies this *Newsletter*. Several candidates for the Board of Directors have submitted statements which appear on the following three pages

ELECTION STATEMENTS

SARA S. BERRY: Like most professional organizations in the academic world, the ASA has served as a forum for the exchange of ideas among people concerned in their professional lives with the study of Africa; it has also, though perhaps to a lesser extent, sought to supply information about Africa and research on Africa to its members and the general public and to promote research on Africa. It has not, however, played a role of intellectual leadership in the field of African studies similar to that played by the professional organizations in many other disciplines. This, I think, has been due primarily to the fact that there is no consensus as to who the intellectual leaders in African studies are or ought to be—and no commonly accepted set of criteria for evaluating individuals' contributions to the study of Africa. (Should students of Africa describe social and cultural change or cause it? How can